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Ahnee (Hello)!

This past week was another exciting time for the Grand Traverse Band! Last Friday evening, I received a phone call from Ms. Jodi Gillette, Deputy Associate Director; White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, with an invitation to meet President Barack Obama on his visit to Michigan this past Tuesday. Ms. Gillette is a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and was named to this position by the Obama Administration. The invitation was to not only attend the President's speech but to also be a part of what he calls a "political clutch" group. This was a great opportunity for the Grand Traverse Band, a sovereign Nation, to be invited and have a personal introduction to the President of the United States.

GTB Conservation Officer, Jim Chambers, accompanied me on my travels to Warren, MI, location of the President's event. I did have an opportunity to meet, and shake hands, with President Obama and also present him with a gift. The gift I gave him was a beaded lapel pin in the shape of a medicine wheel. I shared with the President that the four colors (black, white, red, and yellow) represent the four colors of humankind and that, to me, it embodies the message he promotes of everyone working together for the common goal of taking America forward. President Obama was very grateful for this gift, and I never doubted during our exchange that I did not have his full attention – that was a remarkable feeling! Unfortunately, I was not able to capture this exchange with a photo (the person I asked to use my iPhone did not work it correctly), but a White House photographer was present and did take pictures. I was informed that these pictures would arrive in a week's time. So...I look forward to their arrival and posting them in hopefully next week's email blast.

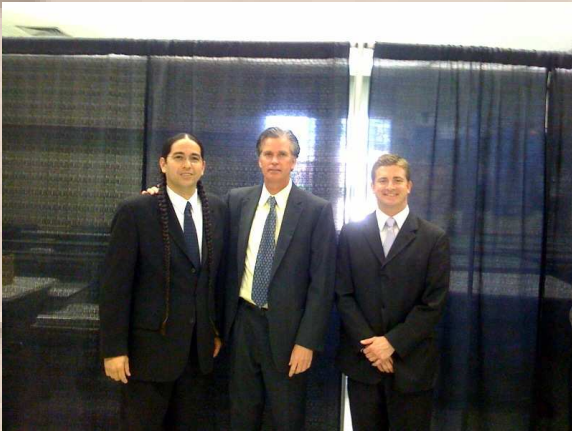
After meeting with President Obama, we returned to our seats and waited for his arrival on stage. In his opening remarks, the President acknowledged leaders both at the State and Federal level for the state of Michigan, and then he proceeded to make the introduction that I was endeared with. President Obama gave Presidential Recognition to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and my self as Tribal Chairman! Further down in this email blast, I have included news video links where you can hear and see firsthand the President make this recognition.

Below, is the transcript from President Obama's speech, and the 5th paragraph from the beginning, you will see his mention of the Grand Traverse Band and myself as Tribal Chairman:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-on-the-American-Graduation-Initiative-in-Warren-MI/ - (5th Paragraph down)



07/14/09 President Obama addressing our group after meeting us each personally. When the President left, we went to our seats for his speech.



While we waited for the President to arrive and meet with us, I spoke with Speaker of the House Andy Dillon and State Representative (25th District) Jon Switalski.



Introductions were also made to the new Mayor of Detroit, Dave Bing.



President Obama addressing the audience. In front of me (two individuals in the right of the picture) were Senator Debbie Stabenow and Lt. Governor John Cherry.



After he concluded his speech, the President went around and greeted the audience. In this picture, the President is talking to Lt. Gov Cherry while Governor Granholm looks on.



I am pictured with Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, and Lt. Governor Cherry is in the background.



To personally express appreciation and gratitude to local news sources, I have included pictures of my interviews with 7&4 News and also 9&10 News. Great coverage from two great news stations and staff!

- To view the 7&4 News segment, please click on this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXhGeA6-v6U&feature=channel>.
- TV station, 9&10 News can be viewed by clicking on this link: <http://www.9and10news.com/category/story/?id=158658>.
- The Traverse City Record Eagle, in today's edition, also carried a story which can be found at: http://www.record-eagle.com/local/local_story_197234134.html
- Also, the weekly printed Leelanau Enterprise ran a very well-written front page story, and once a link is posted I will be providing that in next week's email blast.

The National Cherry Festival was a great time, as always each and every year, and the Grand Traverse Band is proud to be the sponsor for Heritage Day (which I covered in last week's email blast). We also entered two floats in the Cherry Royale Parade, one for the Tribal Government and the other for Grand Traverse Resort and Casinos (a gaming float). Please click on this link (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjC3xTZLSBA>) to see a 54 second video feed from the parade route. Megwetch (thank you) to all the tribal membership and employees that represented us so respectfully that day (and every day!).



07/11/09 Cherry Royale Parade, part of the National Cherry Festival. Pictured above is the GTB Government Float.



Some of our talented youth that participated as dancers during this year's Cherry Royale Parade. They did a great job!!



On the Government float, we had Tribal Elders who participated. Sitting (from L-R are Percy Anderson, Jo Keusch, and Phyllis Wanageshik – the “Queen of Peshawbestown!”).



Great to see Nascar Steve, representing 97.5 WKLT at the Cherry Royale Parade! He is pictured with my two daughters, Panika and Daanis.

I want to thank Omelette and Finster for the great opportunity to share this past Tuesday's events with WKLT listeners, by holding a live on-air interview Thursday, regarding my meeting with President Obama. They did an excellent job!

I also want to thank the Ron Jolly show, AM 580, for Wednesday's morning opportunity to share my experience to their station's listening audience.

I am trying to obtain audio links to both of these interviews to be posted in next week's email blast!



07/17/09 Very enjoyable lunch meeting today with Kevin Endres, of Three West, LLC (www.threewest.net). Kevin and I enjoyed a delicious meal at the Blue Tractor near downtown Traverse City.

Have an enjoyable weekend and week!

Chairman Bailey

www.gtbindians.org

“A Nation grows stronger when built upon shared visions.”